Representations against Star News for uplinking facilities

2317. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received several representations from the domestic companies against the Star News being granted DTH licence for uplinking, without fulfilling in letter and spirit the statutory requirement of DTH guidelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether the company is being granted weekly extensions on several consecutive occasions pending finalisation of its application and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) DTH licence is not given for uplinking. It is given for setting up and for operating a DTH platform for providing DTH service. An application has been received from M/s. Media Content & Communications Services (India) Pvt. Ltd. for uplinking of Star News channel which was received on 20.6.2003 and is under examination.

(c) 'Star News' Channel was a running channel, being uplinked from Hong Kong after getting feed from India through VSNL. Star News Channel was required to conform to the revised guidelines by 25th June, 2003. M/s. Media Content & Communications Services (India) Pvt. Ltd. (MCCS) applied to this Minister for uplinking of STAR NEWS channel on 20th June, 2003. The application was forwarded to Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Department of Space (DOS) for comments/clearance on 25th June, 2003. As M/s. MCCS had applied to the Ministry for permission to uplink from India in the prescribed format, they were given temporary uplinking permission for one week on 25th June, 2003 which was subsequently renewed upto 7th August, 2003. The temporary uplinking permission was given in view of the pendency of the application, which is under inter-Ministerial examination.